

REMARKS

This paper is filed as a Preliminary Amendment with a contemporaneously filed RCE application. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

With regards to the amendments to the specification, applicants have attempted to clarify the specification by including the code identified as 210 in the specification as a subclass of the gaming program shared objects. Thus, the code illustrated at 210 includes device handlers, which are a type of gaming program shared object and possibly other types of shared objects. Therefore, Fig. 2 and the specification as filed clearly used the term shared object in connection with reference numeral 203 and 210 and page 7 of the specification has been amended to clarify this point and page 12 has been amended for clarification purposes as well.

The prosecution history of the current application is convoluted and a lengthy summary of the rejections would not be helpful here. However, the primary reference cited against the current application is U.S. Patent No. 6,075,939 ("Bunnell"). Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office reconsider all of the rejections in view of the amendments to claims 1, 3-5, 9, 13-14, 16-19 and 38.

Specifically, Bunnell does not teach or suggest the system handler application, the interaction between the system handler application and the gaming program shared objects and the interaction between the shared objects and the application program interface. Bunnell also does not teach or suggest the initiation of a game by any set of code that remotely resembles the system handler application recited in independent claims 1, 13, 16-17 and 19.

Applicants also wish to thank Examiner Ashburn for the useful teleconference that occurred between the undersigned and him on May 26, 2004. Examiner Ashburn is invited to telephone the undersigned again should any additional issues remain that could be easily disposed of.

An early action indicating the allowability of pending claims 1-10, 13-21 and 38 is respectfully requested.

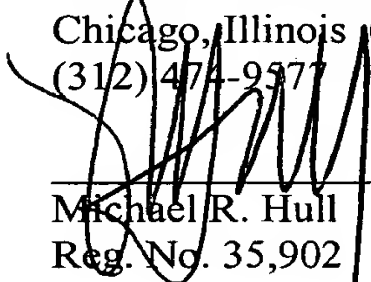
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper,
or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-9577

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By:



Michael R. Hull
Reg. No. 35,902